

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0561

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, OVIP (CROWN PRINCE HASSAN), JO, US
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S PAPER ON "ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE"

REF: STATE 010402

1. CROWN PRINCE AND ECONOMIC ADVISORS, NATIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT HANNAH ODEH AND AHMAD
MANGO, MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMOFFS JANUARY 16
TO DISCUSS PRINCE HASSAN'S PAPER ON "ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE" PRIOR TO
CROWN PRINCE'S DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

2. AMBASSADOR GAVE CROWN PRINCE SUBSTANCE OF
DEPARTMENT RESPONSE IN REFTEL AND CROWN PRINCE IS
LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT AND TO
U.S. "COUNTER-PAPER". EMBASSY ALSO OFFERED SOME
PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON PAPER BOTH WITH RESPECT TO
SOME OF THE ECONOMIC CONCLUSIONS DRAWN AND IN AN
ATTEMPT TO MAKE EXPLICIT MANY POLITICAL
ASSUMPTIONS (QUESTION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL, MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES, QUESTION OF
JORDANIAN RELATION WITH WEST BANK/GAZA, ETC.)
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ALL OF WHICH JORDANIANS RECOGNIZE ARE IMPORTANT.
WE BELIEVE EMBASSY PRELIMINARY COMMENTS WILL BE
HELPFUL IN PRIMING CROWN PRINCE AND HIS STAFF FOR
WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT
ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. CROWN PRINCE'S STAFF CLARIFIED UNDERLYING

RATIONALE FOR THEIR PERPARATION OF PAPER. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN EXAMINING BASIC ECONOMIC FACTORS IN THE REGION, INDEPENDENT OF CURRENT POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS. WE BELIEVE THEY WISH TO BE IN A POSITION TO ASSESS THE PROS - CONS OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS IN ANTICIPATION OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING ARAB/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE HINDERED, HOWEVER, BY A VERY FRAGMENTARY DATA BASE AND PAUCITY OF PUBLISHED WRITINGS ON THIS SUBJECT. CROWN PRINCE AND HIS STAFF HAVE READ VIVIAN BULL'S BOOK "THE WEST BANK-IS IT VIABLE" AND BRIAN VAN ARKADIE'S "BENEFITS AND BURDENS: A REPORT ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP ECONOMICS SINCE 1976" (CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE).

4. WITH REGARD TO DATA BASE, WE BELIEVE JORDANIANS WILL BE INTERESTED IN COMPARING SOURCES WITH US IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION. IN ADDITION TO JORDANIAN DATA, THEY HAVE CONSULTED THE GOI PUBLICATION, "ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES STATISTICS QUARTERLY," AND OBVIOUSLY SOME OTHER GOI OFFICIAL SOURCES ON ISRAELI ECONOMY. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT COMPARE DATA WITH THEM REGARDING WEST BANK/GAZA, ISRAEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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GULF STATES AND SAUDIA ARABIA. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT AWAIT WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS BEFORE APPROACHING EMBASSY TEL AVIV, PARTICULARLY SINCE JORDANIANS ARE REWRITING THEIR PAPER AND WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO HAVE WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS REGARDING DATA BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER AFIELD.

5. CROWN PRINCE MADE SPECIAL POINT OF INDICATING HIS INTEREST IN FINDING OUT WHETHER ANY U.S. UNIVERSITIES OR RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS ARE DOING ANY WORK ON ISRAEL/WEST BANK/JORDAN ECONOMIC REGION. IN ESSENCE, CROWN PRINCE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO EXPERT DIALOGUE WITH ECONOMISTS WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE DISCRETE INQUIRIES WITHOUT, AT THIS POINT, REVEALING OFFICIAL JORDANIAN INTEREST. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT JORDANIANS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO EXPLORING ANY SUGGESTIONS WE MAY HAVE IN THIS REGARD. BOTH HANNAH ODEH AND AHMAD MANGO

WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE CROWN PRINCE. BOTH ARE COMPETENT ECONOMISTS AND WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT WILL FIND THEM INTERESTING INTERLOCUTORS. MANGO IS AUTHOR OF CROWN PRINCE'S PAPER. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM ON DATA AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT.

6. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS REGARDING OTHER PAPERS WHICH CROWN PRINCE WILL BE BRINGING WITH HIM.
PICKERING

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